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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Eighth executive session
Geneva, 5 December 1994
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda and annotations for the eighth executive session of the Board

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Follow-up to the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency (UNISTE), held in Columbus, Ohio (17-21 October 1994):

   (a) Assessment of the Symposium;

   (b) Work programme implications;

   (c) Institutional arrangements

3. Other business

4. Report of the eighth executive session of the Board.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in document TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1. The guidelines for the Trade and Development Board in executive session are reproduced in document TD/B/EX(6)/1, annex.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Consultations of the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD, held on 4 November 1994, decided that an executive session of the Board would be convened for one whole day on Monday, 5 December 1994 in accordance with paragraph 18 of conclusions and decisions 415(XL): Mid-term Review, of 27 May 1994, to consider organizational and, to the extent possible, substantive aspects of the follow-up to the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency. It was further agreed that no other substantive item would be inscribed on the agenda of this executive session.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(8)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations for the eighth executive session of the Board

Item 2: Follow-up to the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency (UNISTE), held in Columbus, Ohio (17-21 October 1994)

At its eighth session, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 8 to 25 February 1992, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development decided to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency. The Group was to be responsible for producing guidelines needed to take concrete steps towards trade efficiency at the national and international levels, especially in developing countries. The Group was also to identify and formulate the elements necessary to the promotion and implementation of such guidelines, focusing on their legal, technical, procedural and institutional components while preserving full scope for private sector initiatives in this field. The culmination of these efforts of the Group was to be an international symposium on trade efficiency, to be held in 1994.

In its resolution 47/183, of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly endorsed the convening in 1994 of a United Nations international symposium on trade efficiency and requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to make all the necessary arrangements for that symposium, taking into account the preparatory work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency.

At the second part of its thirty-ninth session, held from 15 to 26 March 1993, the Trade and Development Board welcomed and endorsed the holding of the Symposium in Columbus (Ohio), United States of America, in 1994.

(a) Assessment of the Symposium

The United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency was held at Columbus, Ohio from 17 to 21 October. The Symposium consisted of a senior officials segment, held on 17 and 18 October, and a Ministerial segment, held from 19 to 21 October.

The Ministerial Segment of the Symposium adopted the Columbus Declaration on Trade Efficiency and decided to transmit the Declaration and the supporting recommendations and guidelines for trade efficiency to the General Assembly, together with the report of the Symposium.

In addition, the Ministerial Segment noted the summaries presented by the President of the Ministerial Segment and the Chairperson of the Senior Officials Segment and decided to transmit them to the Trade and Development Board and to request the Trade and Development Board to report thereon to the General Assembly (see document TD/B/EX(8)/2 - TD/SYMP.TE/7).

Following a brief introduction by the secretariat and a short video summary presentation of the Symposium, the Board may wish to exchange views on the assessment of the Symposium.

(b) Work programme implications

The Board may wish to have a preliminary discussion on the work programme implications of the outcome of the Symposium, notably of the sets of summaries referred to above. In terms of research and policy analysis and intergovernmental discussion, attention is called to the following areas:

Telecommunications (paras. 9, 10, 11 and 33 of TD/SYMP.TE/7);

Banking and insurance (paras. 30 and 32 of TD/SYMP.TE/7);

Transport (paras. 26, 27 , 28 and 29 of TD/SYMP.TE/7).

In terms of technical cooperation, section B of TD/SYMP.TE/7 indicates the important areas where operational activities should be carried out in cooperation with other organizations such as ITC, ECE and the World Customs Organization (WCO). In addition, paragraph 14 of TD/SYMP.TE/7 highlights the role of small, medium and micro-enterprises and paragraph 10 the needs of African countries for technical cooperation. The secretariat will provide an oral report on the areas of focus for technical cooperation, requests received from member States for further technical cooperation and the resource requirements.

(c) Institutional arrangements

The Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD will present an oral report on possible arrangements in UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery for the follow-up to the Symposium.

In this connection attention is also drawn to paragraph 21 of TD/SYMP.TE/7 containing a proposal on the establishment of a trade efficiency review mechanism akin to that of the GATT/WTO trade policy review mechanism.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(8)/2- TD/SYMP.TE/7	Summaries of proceedings of the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency
TD/SYMP.TE/6	Report of the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency

3. Other business

4. Report of the eighth executive session of the Board.

The Board may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the President, to prepare the report of the Board on its eighth executive session.